

REMARKS

By the foregoing Amendment Claims 1-8 and 13-17 are cancelled. Entry of the Amendment, and favorable consideration thereof is earnestly requested.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-8 either under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) primarily in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,364,785 to Wajs et al. Claims 1-8 have been cancelled. Also cancelled are claims 13-17 which had been previously withdrawn from consideration.

The Examiner has indicated that Claims 9-12 are allowed, but has objected to the Specification as not adequately supporting allowed Claims 9-12. Applicant respectfully disagrees, and points to Figures 16 and 17 and the corresponding Specification text as supporting Claims 9-12. More specifically, both Figures 16 and 17 disclose providing a die (170, 186) with at least one sealing area having at least one flat sealing ledge (185) and at least one cutting edge (176, 184) which extends over the flat sealing ledge (185); interposing a fabric layer (172) with a thermoplastic layer (180, 190) such that a peripheral edge of the fabric layer (172) extends within the thermoplastic layer (180, 190); forming an outer edge (182) of the thermoplastic layer (180, 190) extending laterally outwardly from the peripheral edge of the fabric layer (172) by applying the die (170, 186) to the thermoplastic layer (180, 190) to cut excess (178) thereof with the one cutting edge (176, 184);

Response to Official Action
Application No. 09/768,450
Page 7

simultaneously with cutting sealing overlapped areas of the fabric (172) and thermoplastic (180, 190) layers to each other to form a trimmed article of clothing. If the Examiner believes that further support is required, Applicant has no objection to amending the Specification.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims, namely Claims 9-12, are patentable over the references of record, and earnestly solicits allowance of the same.

Respectfully submitted,



Louis H. Reens, Registration No. 22,588
Todd M. Oberdick, Reg. No. 44,268
ST. ONGE STEWARD JOHNSTON & REENS LLC
986 Bedford Street
Stamford, Connecticut 06905-5619
(203) 324-6155
Attorneys for Applicant